

1. *B. intermedia*. The largest; 58 feet long, with a head 14 feet in length and 6 feet in breadth, and 8 feet high at the middle of the body; has the most robust figure, most bulky cranium; and its vertebræ number at least sixty-six (besides the sixty-one preserved there being five to six wanting), which number may be divided into seven cervical, fifteen dorsal, sixteen lumbar, and sixteen caudal with spines beneath.

2. *B. patachonica*. Rather smaller, although not shorter; but has a more slender figure and less bulky head, $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet broad, although also 14 feet in length; of the fifty-eight and a half vertebræ preserved, seven are cervical, sixteen dorsal, seventeen lumbar, and thirteen caudal with under-spines, also wanting the five to six terminal vertebræ. This species is described in the 'Proc. Zool. Soc.' 1865, p. 191.

3. *B. bonaërensis*. The smallest, 30 to 32 feet in length, with a head 7 feet long and 4 feet wide, and a vertebral column of forty-eight vertebræ, divided into seven cervical, eleven dorsal, twelve lumbar, and eighteen caudal; but only the nine anterior have under-spines. The skeleton of this species was described by me in the 'Proc. Zool. Soc.' 1867, p. 707.

POSTSCRIPT.—In the description, instead of nine under-spines of the tail it should be twelve, as I have lately found three more bones on the skeleton, each open and composed of two separate pieces; the number of vertebræ is exactly the same as in the European species. Mr. Turner of Edinburgh is of Dr. Gray's opinion, and separates *Sibbaldius* from *Physalus*. I have seen the Ostend specimen of *Sibbaldius* at Leipsic, and cannot understand how M. van Beneden could unite this gigantic animal with the slender *Physalus*, which I know very well, from the daily inspection of the skeleton in the museum of Greifswald.

Buenos Ayres,
September 25, 1872.

H. B.

LX.—*On some new Species of Reptiles and Fishes collected by J. Brencley, Esq.* By Dr. ALBERT GÜNTHER, F.R.S.

THE following diagnoses are taken from an account of the reptiles and fishes collected by J. Brencley, Esq., in Polynesia, the East Indies, and Central Asia, and kindly presented by him to the Trustees of the British Museum. This account, which contains more detailed descriptions, was prepared some time ago for a large work which Mr. Brencley has in the press; but as the execution of the numerous plates with which the work will be illustrated may cause a further delay in its publication, I have thought it best to publish now the following shorter notices.

REPTILES.

Eremias Brenchleyi.

The supranasals meet, separating the præfrontals from the rostral; præfrontals not confluent; a small azygos shield between the postfrontals. Six upper labials in front of the infraocular, which forms a part of the free margin of the lip; the sixth labial only about half the size of the infraocular. Eyelid entirely scaly. Collar formed by eight scales, subequal in size. Ventral scutes forming thirty-one transverse and twelve longitudinal series. Præanal region covered with small scales. Fore limb reaching nearly to the extremity of the snout when stretched forwards; hind limb extending to the axil of the fore limb. Upper parts brownish olive, with an indistinct series of light-coloured ocelli on each side of the back; a well-defined whitish band commences behind the eye, passes through the tympanum, and runs along each side of the body to the axil of the hind leg. Hinder side of the thighs with a few whitish ocelli on a black ground.

A single adult female was obtained in Mongolia.

Eremias multiocellata.

The supranasals meet, separating the single præfrontal from the rostral; præfrontals confluent into a single shield; a small azygos shield between the postfrontals. Six upper labials in front of the infraocular, the narrow lower corner of which enters the free margin of the lip; the sixth labial as large as the infraocular. Eyelid entirely scaly. Collar formed by a central larger and numerous smaller lateral shields. Ventral scutes forming thirty transverse and eighteen longitudinal series. Præanal region covered with small scales. Fore limb reaching nearly the extremity of the snout when stretched forwards; hind limb extending to the axil of the fore limb. Greenish olive above, with numerous more or less perfect black rings enclosing a lighter centre. A somewhat irregular, whitish, black-edged band along each side of the body, from the eye to the axil of the hind limb.

A single specimen was obtained in the desert of Gobi, on the route from Sumé to the Tola river.

Euprepes haplorhinus.

This species would appear to represent a distinct generic division; but more than enough genera have been distinguished by names in the Scincoid family, and I am unwilling to increase their number without being fully convinced of the generic value of the distinctive characters.

This species, then, differs from *Euprepes* by lacking supranasal shields; it would be a *Mocoa*, but it has the scales distinctly provided with three or four keels.

The præfrontal forms a broad suture with the rostral as well as with the vertical. Only one fronto-parietal, notched behind to receive the front part of the central occipital. Vertical five-sided, nearly as long as broad. Nostril wide, in the centre of the nasal. Ear-opening with two or three short lobules in front. The middle of the body is surrounded by twenty-eight longitudinal series of scales, subequal in size; there are thirty-eight scales in a longitudinal series between the fore and hind legs. Six præanal scales, the middle of which are rather larger than the others. The fore leg extends to the middle of the eye if stretched forwards; third finger a little shorter than the fourth. The hind leg covers about two thirds of its distance from the fore leg; the fourth toe one fourth longer than the third.

With regard to coloration it is very similar to *Mocoa trilineata*. The dorsal parts are brownish, uniform or with dark markings more or less confluent into a pair of longitudinal bands. Sides black, with a well-defined white streak, one scale broad, from the tympanum, above the shoulder, to the axil of the hind leg. Lower parts uniform white.

Two examples from the Feejee Islands.

Mocoa micropus.

Præfrontal shield single, in contact with the rostral as well as with the parietal. Five occipitals, of which the central is as large as one of the anterior. Ear-opening very small, without any lobules. The middle of the body is surrounded by twenty-one longitudinal series of smooth scales; six series are dorsal and rather larger than the others. There are thirty-five scales in a longitudinal series between the axils of the fore and hind limbs. Four præanal scales, the two middle of which are twice the size of the lateral. Legs very feeble, but five-toed; the fore leg does not reach the ear-opening if stretched forwards; fingers very short, subequal in length; the third and fourth toes equal in length. Back light greenish olive, with a few minute black specks, bordered on the side by a deep-black band, which gradually passes into the greyish coloration of the lower parts; the latter are indistinctly marbled with whitish.

Two specimens, apparently young, from the Feejee Islands.

Hinulia tetragonurus.

The præfrontal forms a broad suture with the rostral as well as with the vertical. Vertical five-sided, much longer than broad.

Only one fronto-parietal, notched behind to receive the front part of the central occipital. Nostril in the centre of the nasal, with a lunate groove behind. Ear-opening without lobes in front. The middle of the body is surrounded by twenty-eight longitudinal series of scales, those on the back being rather larger than those on the sides and abdomen; there are forty scales in a longitudinal series between the fore and hind legs. Four præanal scales, subequal in size. *Tail strong, tetrahedral.* Legs feeble; the anterior extends to the ear-opening if stretched forwards; fingers very feeble and short; the hind leg covers about one half of its distance from the fore leg; the fourth toe one fourth longer than the third. Upper parts light brownish, finely marbled with darker, sides lighter; lower parts white.

One example, apparently adult, from the Feejee Islands.

NANNOSCINCUS (g. n. Scincid.).

Appears to be allied to *Cophoscincus* (Ptrs.), but differing by having keeled scales. Body of moderate proportions; legs feeble, five-toed. Eyelid narrow, scaly. No supranasal. Ear-opening externally not visible, entirely hidden by scales.

Nannoscincus fuscus.

Rostral shield depressed, flat, somewhat wedge-shaped. Præfrontal forming a broad suture with the rostral as well as with the vertical. Vertical much longer than broad, tapering behind. Four supraciliaries. Five occipitals, the middle of which is smaller than one of the anterior. Nasals rhomboid, with the anterior and posterior angles acute, perforated in the middle by the nostrils. Five or six supralabials. Scales with three or four keels, in twenty-two longitudinal series, the dorsal not being conspicuously larger than the lateral; there are thirty-eight transverse series of scales between the fore and hind legs. Four præanal scales, the middle being somewhat the larger. Anterior toes almost rudimentary; the third and fourth hind toes rather longer than the second. Upper parts uniform shining blackish brown; lower parts speckled with greyish.

One example from the Feejee Islands.

Gymnodactylus multicarinatus.

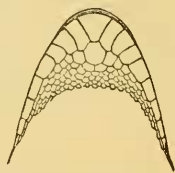
Snout broader than long. Head without any larger tubercles, except in the occipital and temporal regions. Six upper labials; the middle lower labial large, without mentalia, or with a pair of only rudimentary ones behind. Back with from sixteen to twenty regular longitudinal series of small conical

tubercles; the series are equidistant from each other, and the tubercles are close to one another and ribbed. The abdominal scales are very small, strongly keeled, and gradually reduced to minute tubercles in the direction towards the vent. The tail in all our specimens is more or less reproduced and uniformly granular, without tubercles or scutes. The upperside of the hind limbs with scattered, strongly ribbed tubercles. No pores. Upper parts brownish uniform, or with dark transverse markings; sometimes a blackish streak from the eye to above the tympanum.

Several examples from the New Hebrides (Aneiteum) and Tongatabu.

Peripia cycchura.

Back uniform granular, without any tubercles. Scales in the middle of the belly in about forty-five longitudinal series. Tail rounded, not depressed, very narrowly verticillated, without enlarged subcaudals. Nine upper and eight lower labial shields. Front lower labial elongate; but the two adjoining labials are still longer; the chin is covered with very small shields, of which one in the centre, immediately behind the front labial, is generally the largest. Brownish grey above, with more or less irregular brown bands across the back, each band being ornamented with some small white spots; the brown bands are sometimes replaced by a dark marbling.



Twice nat. size.

Several specimens from New Caledonia, all agreeing in the peculiar pholidosis of the chin and in the form of the tail. The longest is $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches long, of which the tail takes 2 inches.

I have no doubt that Professor Peters is perfectly right in supposing that *Peripia Peronii* is identical with *Peropus mutilatus* of Wiegmann (Monatsber. Berl. Acad. 1867, p. 14).

FISHES.

Dicerobatis draco.

Teeth tessellated, those of the upper jaw in forty-six series, each tooth being much broader than long and trenchant behind. The band of teeth terminates laterally at a short distance from the angle of the mouth. Body and tail smooth. The distance between the mouth and dorsal fin is one half of the greatest width of the body. Tail more than twice as long as the disk, without spine. Upper parts uniform brown, top of the dorsal fin white.

Misol Island. Greatest width of the disk 15 inches; distance between the front margin of the head and dorsal fin $7\frac{1}{3}$ inches.

Scolopsis xenochrous.

D. $\frac{10}{9}$. A. $\frac{3}{7}$. L. lat. 44. L. transv. $3\frac{1}{2}/14$.

Allied to *Scolopsis ghanam*.

The height of the body is contained thrice in the total length (without caudal), the length of the head thrice and a third. The diameter of the eye is one third of the length of the head, and a little more than that of the snout, and equal to the width of the interorbital space. Infraorbital arch with two strong spines, one pointing forwards, the other backwards; two or three small denticulations below the strong spine. Præoperculum with the angle projecting. Dorsal spines rather strong, but less so than those of the anal fin; second and third anal spines nearly equal in strength and length. Brownish olive; a narrow pearl-coloured band along the uppermost dorsal series of scales; a large blackish-brown spot on the posterior part of the gill-cover. A broad silvery band, three scales broad, along the trunk below the lateral line; the anterior part of the band is crossed by a pair of short oblique brown streaks, the middle part with a brown spot on the base of each scale; the posterior portion uniform pearl-coloured. Præorbital with a narrow silvery band. Fins colourless.

Misol Island. Length 7 inches.

Cubiceps pauciradiatus.

D. 10 | $\frac{1}{17}$. A. $\frac{1}{14}$. L. lat. 50.

The height of the body is one fourth of the total length (without caudal), the length of the head two sevenths. Abdomen compressed into a ridge in front of the ventral fins, which are received into a groove of the posterior part of the abdomen. The diameter of the eye is equal to the width of the interorbital space and one third of the length of the head. Snout shorter than the eye. Jaws with a series of minute teeth. The vomer and tongue are armed with a long elliptical patch of very small obtuse teeth; no teeth on the palatine bones. Maxillary hidden below the præorbital, and extending to the front margin of the orbit. Humeral plate much developed, triangular. Pectoral fin very long, longer than the head, and extending to the vent; not quite thrice as long as the ventrals. Caudal fin forked nearly to the base; the lobes can overlap each other. Uniform brown; inside of the mouth and gill-cavity black.

Misol Island. Length $5\frac{2}{3}$ inches.

*Percis albo guttata.*D. 5 | 22. A. $\frac{1}{18}$. L. lat. 60. L. transv. $\frac{5}{13}$.

The height of the body is contained six times and a half in the total length (without caudal), the length of the head thrice and a half. The width of the interorbital space is one third of the diameter of the eye, which is two sevenths of the length of the head, and not quite equal to the length of the snout. Lower jaw slightly projecting beyond the upper; the maxillary extends somewhat behind the vertical from the front margin of the orbit. Cheek covered with minute scales to below the middle of the eye. The fourth dorsal spine is rather longer than the third, and about twice as long as the fifth. The ventral fins reach to the vent; caudal truncated. Brownish olive, with a series of five small pearl-coloured spots on each side of the back, along the base of the dorsal fin; a series of indistinct brownish spots along the lower half of the side; caudal fin with a pair of brown spots on the base, the lower spot being followed by an ovate white spot. Fins without distinct markings.

Misol Island. Length 6 inches.

Salarias coronatus.

D. 12 | 20. A. 20.

The height of the body is contained six times in the total length (without caudal), the length of the head five times and a third. The forehead projects a little beyond the mouth. The supraciliary tentacle is about as long as the eye, and terminates in several fringes. Nuchal crest none. A pair of canine teeth in the lower jaw. Dorsal fin deeply notched. Pectoral nearly as long as the head. Flesh-coloured, with eight dark cross bands as broad as, or broader than, the interspaces, darkest on the edges. Back with scattered brownish-violet spots smaller than the pupil. Sides and upper surface of the head with small round yellow spots, a group on the crown of the head being placed in a circle. Throat with three brownish-violet cross bands. Vertical fins nearly immaculate; anal with a blackish margin; pectoral finely dotted with black.

Salomon Islands. Length $3\frac{2}{3}$ inches.

*Chærops Brenchleyi.*D. $\frac{13}{7}$. A. $\frac{3}{9}$. L. lat. 28. L. transv. $\frac{3}{10}$.

The height of the body is equal to the length of the head, and one third of the total (without caudal). Head much longer than high; the depth of the præorbital is more than the

width of the orbit. Scales on the cheek small, scarcely imbricate, in four series. Operculum terminating in a membranaceous flap behind. Posterior canine tooth present. Præoperculum not serrated. Reddish olive: a broad pearl-coloured band ascends obliquely from above the axil of the pectoral towards the origin of the soft dorsal; its upper half is surrounded by a broad brown margin, which is spread over the base of the last dorsal spines and anterior rays. Root of the pectoral silvery. No other markings in a preserved state.

Misol Island. Length $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Clupea pinguis.

B. 5. D. 17. A. 19. L. lat. 43. L. transv. 13.

The height of the body is one fifth of the total length (without caudal), the length of the head one fourth. Scales deciduous. Lower jaw but slightly projecting beyond the upper; maxillary extending to below the front margin of the eye. Teeth none. Snout longer than the eye, which is one fourth of the length of the head. Ventral fin inserted below the anterior third of the dorsal fin, the base of which is midway between the root of the caudal and the end of the snout. Caudal fin deeply forked. There are fourteen abdominal scutes behind the base of the ventrals. Back bluish green, sides silvery, both colours being sharply defined from each other.

Misol Island. Length 5 inches.

Ophichthys pinguis.

Teeth pointed, in a single series in the maxillary, mandible, and on the vomer. Head small, pointed, its length being contained five times and a half in the distance of the gill-opening from the vent. Eye about half the length of the snout, the cleft of the mouth extending considerably behind its hinder margin. Dorsal and anal fins low, nearly entirely hidden in a groove; the former commences somewhat in advance of the gill-opening. The length of the pectoral fin is about one third of that of the head. Reddish brown, with eight large broad black spots across the back of the trunk, and fifteen across the back of the tail; they extend downwards to the middle of the side. Head with numerous small round blackish spots. No other spots.

Salomon Islands. Length 16 inches, the tail being $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches long.

Ophichthys filaria.

Allied to *O. longipinnis* and *O. Kirkii*, but distinguished from both by the considerably greater slenderness of the body,
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the depth of which is two ninths of the length of the head, whilst it is rather more than one third in those two species.

The length of the head is one tenth of the distance between the gill-opening and vent; tail almost as long as the body. Cleft of the mouth of moderate width, extending to some distance behind the eye, which is small, and somewhat nearer to the corner of the mouth than to the end of the snout. Snout pointed, more than twice as long as the eye, projecting beyond the mouth. Anterior nostril with a small tube; posterior on the inner side of the lip, below the front margin of the eye. Teeth pointed, uniserial. Gill-openings lateral. Pectoral fin reduced to a minute filament. The dorsal and anal are about half as high as the body, the former commencing midway between the gill-opening and the eye. Coloration uniform.

Misol Island. Length 24 inches, the tail being $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches long; depth of the body 3 lines.

Ophichthys misolensis.

The length of the head is one seventh of the distance between the gill-opening and vent; tail as long as the body. The depth of the body is one third of the length of the head. Eye small, above the middle of the cleft of the mouth, which is of moderate width. Snout pointed, twice as long as the eye, projecting beyond the mouth. Anterior nostril with a very short tube; posterior on the inner side of the lip, below the front margin of the eye. Teeth equally small, pointed, uniserial. Gill-openings somewhat oblique, lateral. Pectoral fin none. Dorsal and anal fins low, the former commencing at a very short distance behind the gill-opening, the latter immediately behind the vent. Coloration uniform.

Misol Island. Length 11 inches.

LXI.—*On Psammoperca and Cnidon*. By Dr. A. GÜNTHER.

THESE two genera are identical; and the name *Psammoperca* given by Richardson in 1846 has the priority, the name *Cnidon* dating from the year 1849 (Müll. & Trosch. Hor. Ichthyol. Heft 3). The amended diagnosis of the genus will stand as follows:—

Seven branchiostegals. Pseudobranchiæ none. All the teeth villiform, in bands, without canine teeth; tongue with a small, ovate, rough patch. Operculum with a small spine; præoperculum with a strong spine at the angle, with the posterior edge serrated, and with the lower limb smooth and covered by membrane. Two dorsal fins, slightly continuous, the first with seven or eight strong spines, another being